EBERHARD KARLS UNIVERSITÄT TÜBINGEN



Module Handbook General Linguistics MA

Valid from summer semester 2023

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Institute of Linguistics



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1. Preliminary remarks

1.1. Goals of the program

The *MA General Linguistics program* serves the acquisition of long-term scientific skills aimed at systematic critical knowledge acquisition and knowledge advancement, establishing a general scientifically sound professional qualification of the students in the field of general linguistics. The course builds on a first university degree and expands and deepens the skills acquired there. The course includes questions on all aspects of human language in all its manifestations, but focuses on the following main topics:

- Language Variation & Change
 - Aspects of language variation, language change and language evolution
- Language Structure
 Structural aspects of language description
- Language processing

Aspects of language processing

Graduates of the program have the ability to carry out independent scientific research. This includes both the critical examination of current research literature and the argumentation for one's own approaches. They have extensive knowledge of the current state of research and have experience with applying various research methods in at least two of the three abovementioned main topics. They are also able to convincingly present their own work in oral and written form.

1.2. Languages of instruction

The *MA General Linguistics program* is closely linked to the international *MA Computational Linguistics program*. For this reason, many courses in general linguistics are also open to students of computational linguistics and are taught in English accordingly. This applies in particular to the introductory modules of the first semester. In later semesters, classes are held in German or English, depending on the lecturers and the composition of the auditorium. For this reason, English skills at least at B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference are required.

Proof of language proficiency in English and German must be provided by an internationally recognized test (TOEFL, IELTS, etc.). Applicants who can prove knowledge of a language at the Abitur level via the Abitur certificate or who speak one of the languages as their mother tongue do not need any additional proof, since the B2 level is already guaranteed.

2. General information

2.1. Program structure

The Master's degree in General Linguistics is divided into 2 academic years. Students acquire a total of 120 credit points.

2.2. Credit points

Credit points are intended to quantify and make internationally comparable the average workload a student has to manage to pass a module. One credit point is the equivalent of approximately 30 hours of work. One credit point is defined as one point under the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Sixty credits per year, i.e. 30 per semester, are required to complete a degree in the minimum prescribed time.

Credit points include both actual teaching time in class - contact hours - as well as private study (usually preparation and reviewing of the material taught, preparation for presentations in class, semester papers, and the Master's thesis).

2.3. Assessed and non-assessed coursework

Various forms of coursework must be completed for credit points to be awarded. This includes assessment and ungraded coursework.

Assessed work is generally given a grade and counts as, or counts towards, the grade for the module. The assessed work required for each module in the General Linguistics study program is set out in the module handbook. Assessment may be made in the form of a grade for performance either at the end of the learning process in a module (summatively - e.g. as an exam or assignment = result = the module grade) or it may be in several stages within a module (formatively - e.g. as a project or analysis task). Assessed work from each phase of assessment is incorporated into the module grade, whereby the phases may be weighted differently. A graded module has been passed if the module is graded "sufficient" (4.00) or better; it is possible to fail. The number and timing of any repeat exams permitted are regulated in the General Provisions of the exam regulations.

Non-graded coursework is noted as "completed" or "not completed". However, non-graded coursework has only been completed when the responsible teacher attests sufficient quality, i.e., well-founded academic feedback by the teacher is possible. Non-graded coursework has no influence on the module grade. Non-graded coursework may be, e.g.: presentation, abstract, analysis, experiment.

In the obligatory courses offered once a year, a retake exam is generally offered in the week before the next semester starts so that students who did not pass an exam have a second opportunity to pass the exam in a timely manner. Where successful, they thus can take courses building on this prerequisite without delay. Alternatively, students can also choose to repeat a course in the following year.

Key						
Form of evaluation:	b = graded; ub = not graded (pass/fail); kP = no exam					
	K = written exam; MP = oral exam; PA = project work; H = semester paper; R = presentation					
Assessment type:	If several forms of examination are possible, they are listed one below the other. In the specific case, the lecturer decides on the actual form of examination for the event in question.					
Duration:	Duration of the exam in minutes					
Weighting:	In courses = weighting of the exam grade as part of module grade In modules = weighting of the module grade for the final grade					
sws:	Credit hours per week during semester (Semesterwochenstunden)					
Status:	o = obligatory; f = facultative (not compulsory)					
Class type:	VL = lecture; S = seminar; T = tutorial; Ü = exercise					
LP:	Credit points (ECTS points)					

3. Course of studies

3.1 Overview by modules

(according to the module overview of the study and examination regulations)

Module- number	Compulsory / Required elective	Module title	Recom- mended semester	LP (Credit points)
ASW-MA-01	Required elective	Linguistic Basics	1 & 2	12
ASW-MA-02	Compul- sory	Research Topic Language Variation & Change	1-3	12
ASW-MA-03	Compul- sory	Research Topic Language Structure	1-3	12
ASW-MA-04	Compul- sory	Research Topic Language Processing	1-3	12
ASW-MA-05	Required elective	Research Trends I	1 & 2	12
ASW-MA-06	Compul- sory	Research Trends II	3 & 4	12
ASW-MA-07	Required elective	Research Apprenticeship Language Variation & Change A	1-3	12
ASW-MA-08	Required elective	Research Apprenticeship Language Variation & Change B	1-3	12
ASW-MA-09	Required elective	Research Apprenticeship Language Structure A	1-3	12
ASW-MA-10	Required elective	Research Apprenticeship Language Structure B	1-3	12
ASW-MA-11	Required elective	Research Apprenticeship Language Processing A	1-3	12
ASW-MA-12	Required elective	Research Apprenticeship Language Processing B	1-3	12
ASW-MA-13	Compul- sory	Exam module	4	24



Basics & trends

provide methodological and technical foundations and insights into current research topics

Research Topics

provide further methodological and technical knowledge of the main topics

Research Apprenticeships

provide practical experience in the main topics and, by intensive supervision, instruct students to work independently

3.2 Overview according to course of studies

Semester	LP (CP)	Basics & trends	Research Topics	Research Apprenticeships
1.	30	ASW-MA-01 Linguistic Basics/ ASW-MA-05	ASW-MA-02 Language Variation & Change (12 CP)	ASW-MA-X Research Apprenticeship (12 CP)
2.	30	Research Trends I (12 CP)	ASW-MA-03 Language Structure (12 CP)	ASW-MA-Y Research Apprenticeship (12 CP)
3.	30	ASW-MA-06	ASW-MA-04 Language Processing (12 CP)	ASW-MA-Z Research Apprenticeship (12 CP)
4.	30	Research Trends II (12 CP)	ASW-N Exam n (24)	nodule
Σ	120			



Basics & trends

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The *MA General Linguistics program* has three main topics: **Language Variation & Change**, **Language Structure** and **Language Processing**. During the course of their studies, students take three research apprenticeships. All three of them may belong to different main topics or one main topic may be deepened by attending two research apprenticeships.

Students who have already achieved the goals of the ASW-MA-01 "Linguistic Basics" module as part of the BA modules ASW-BA-03 "Methods II" and ASW-BA-05 "Syntax & Semantics" in the *BA General Linguistics program*, must replace this module with the module ASW-MA-05 "Research Trends I".

4. Module Descriptions

Module ASW-MA- 01	Linguistic Basics	Required elective				
ECTS points	12					
Workload - contact hours - private study	Workload: 360 hours Contact hours: 150 h 10 SWS Private study: 210 h					
Duration of module	2 semesters					
Frequency	each winter semester					
Language of in- struction	German, English					
Teaching formats	Proseminar "Mathematical Methods: Statistics", 4 SWS, 3 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work) Proseminar "Programming and Data Analysis", 2 SWS, 3 CP (lecture-style teaching, programming exercises) Proseminar "Syntax & Semantics", 4 SWS, 6 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work)					
Content of module	The aim of this module is to equip students with possibly different study backgrounds with the necessary basic skills to enable a smooth and successful course of study. In the introductory seminar "Mathematical Methods: Statistics", basic methodical knowledge for modeling, analysis and graphical representation of empirical data is imparted. In addition, the interpretation of statistical results on a scientific question is incorporated, in particular which conclusions may and may not be derived. The seminar "Programming and Data Analysis" introduces the programming of simple algorithms with the primary goal of familiarizing students with the processing and sifting of empirical data. The seminar "Syntax & Semantics" provides basic knowledge of the analysis of the structure of linguistic expressions and of the compositional analysis of the meanings derived from them.					
Goals	Students know the conceptual basics of the statistical concepts necessary in the context of linguistics. They are familiar with the basic concepts and structures of a programming language and can apply them to solve simple data analysis problems. They also have advanced knowledge of syntax and basic knowledge of sentence semantics. They are able to understand syntactic analyses and the corresponding semantic derivations and apply them to similar phenomena.					

Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grad- ing (and weighting, where appropriate)	Name of course	Class type	Status	Credit hours in semester	ECTS	Assessment type	Assessment duration	Grading system	Calculation of module grade
	Syntax & Semantics	S	0	4	6	K	90	b	100
	Mathematical Methods: Statistics	S	0	4	3	kP	-	-	-
	Programming and Data Analysis	S	0	2	3	kP	-	-	-
Serves as:	-								
Requirements for admission	-								

Students who have already achieved the goals of the ASW-MA-01 "Linguistic Basics" module as part of the BA modules ASW-BA-03 "Methods II" and ASW-BA-05 "Syntax & Semantics" in the *BA General Linguistics program*, must replace this module with the module ASW-MA-05 "Research Trends I".

Module ASW-MA- 07	Research Apprenticeship Language Variation & Change A					Required elective			
ECTS points	12								
Workload - contact hours - private study	Workload: 360 hours Contact hours: 60 h, 4 SWS Private study: 300 h								
Duration of module	1 semester								
Frequency	at least every second ser	nester							
Language of in- struction	English								
Teaching formats	(laboratory work, experim Proseminar "Language V	Project seminar "Language Variation & Change Project A", 2 SWS, 9 CP (laboratory work, experiment, group work) Proseminar "Language Variation & Change Literature Survey A", 2 SWS, 3 CP (literature research, group work)							
Content of module		In this module, open questions from the area of linguistic change and/or language evolution are dealt with independently under guidance using suitable methods.							
Goals	Students have extensive knowledge of language variation, language change and language evolution. They are able to identify a research problem in these areas. Furthermore, they are able to independently discuss and present the state of research on this problem, to develop their own solutions and formally work them out, implement them or validate them experimentally.								
Requirements for the awarding of	Name of course	Class type	Status	Credit hours in semester	ECTS	Assessment type	Assessment du- ration	Grading system	Calculation of module grade
credit points/ grad- ing (and weighting, where appropriate)	Language Variation & Change Project A	S	0	2	9	PA H	-	b	100
	Language Variation & Change	S	0	2	3	kP	-	-	-
Serves as:	-								
Requirements for admission	-								

Module ASW-MA- 08	Research Apprenticeship Language Variation & Change B				Required elective				
ECTS points	12								
Workload - contact hours - private study	Workload: 360 hours Contact hours: 60 h, 4 SWS Private study: 300 h								
Duration of module	1 semester								
Frequency	at least every second sen	nester							
Language of in- struction	English								
Teaching formats	Project seminar "Languaç (laboratory work, experim Proseminar "Language V (literature research, group	ent, gr ariation work)	oup won & Charles	ork) ange L	iteratu	re Survey B", 2	2 SWS	, 3 CF	
Content of module	In this module, open que evolution are dealt with ir ods.								
Goals	Students have extensive knowledge of language variation, language change and language evolution. They are able to identify a research problem in these areas that differs from the one in ASW-MA-07. Furthermore, they are able to independently discuss and present the state of research on this problem, to develop their own solutions and formally work them out, implement them or validate them experimentally.								
Requirements for the awarding of	Name of course	Class type	Status	Credit hours in semester	ECTS	Assessment type	Assessment du-	Grading system	Calculation of module arade
credit points/ grad- ing (and weighting, where appropriate)	Language Variation & Change Project B	S	0	2	9	PA H	-	b	100
	Language Variation & Change	S	0	2	3	kP	-	-	-
Serves as:	-								
Requirements for admission	-								

Module ASW-MA- 09	Research Apprenticeship Language Structure A				Required elective				
ECTS points	12								
Workload - contact hours - private study	Workload: 360 hours	Workload: 360 hours Contact hours: 60 h, 4 SWS Private study: 300 h							
Duration of module	1 semester								
Frequency	at least every second sen	nester							
Language of in- struction	English								
Teaching formats	(laboratory work, experim	Project seminar "Language Structure Project A", 2 SWS, 9 CP (laboratory work, experiment, group work) Proseminar "Language Structure Literature Survey A", 2 SWS, 3 CP (literature research, group work)							
Content of module	In this module, open ques to the formal-structural ar ble methods independent	nalysis	of ling	uistic e	xpress				
Goals	Students have extensive knowledge of the classic sub-areas of linguistics. They are able to identify a research problem in these areas. Furthermore, they are able to independently discuss and present the state of research on this problem, to develop their own solutions and formally work them out, implement them or validate them experimentally.								
Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grad-	Name of course	Class type	Status	Credit hours in semester	ECTS	Assessment type	Assessment du-	Grading system	Calculation of module grade
ing (and weighting, where appropriate)	Language Structure Project A	S	0	2	9	PA H	-	b	100
	Language Structure Literature Survey A	S	0	2	3	kP	-	-	-
Serves as:	-								
Requirements for admission	-								

Literature Survey A

Serves as:

admission

Requirements for

module arade